

As with analog television we are allowed to tape record any and all services that we pay for either directly or indirectly through watching commercials or paying our cable bill. This is a right that we have been given and is also a fair use right as stated in our copyright act. Mandating any kind of a copyright protection device or process violates our constitutional rights and the rights that we have been able to enjoy for years sense the BETA MAX cases left the courts some time ago. Devices such as the VCR, and others like the TiVo would be completely useless. Honest law abiding citizens would be treated like thieves and would always be guilty of some form of infringement if they where to protect their purchases and interests in those purchases by circumventing these protections in order to watch a movie two hours after it was shown or watch their favorite soap at night because they recorded it in the morning. If anyone remembers the technology that came out a couple of years ago called DivX where you could get a DVD in the mail and where allowed to watch it only a couple of times and where not allowed to watch it ever again. This approach has failed; I do not see this product on shelves anywhere because of its ability to limit the use of a product that people paid for. Who wants to go and purchase a DVD and not be able to watch it when ever they want to? Who wants to pay for a pay per view boxing event and not have the ability to watch it again in the later years in life? No one. Big business has little to gain in regard to the people that pirate their signals, programs, and content, they will find a way of continuing to steal the products. Taking this step is a step that will prevent technological innovations and inventions. It will treat individuals as guilty criminals without regard for due process of law and without regard for our rights to fair use. The basic rights of the individual that has purchased the service or show or what ever digital signal needs to be protected from these over reaching ownership interests.